A SYMPOSIUM ON IMMUNIZATION IN CHILDHOOD. (Pp. 139. 17s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1960.

THE object of this symposium was to try to resolve conflicting viewpoints on immunization schedules and to recommend acceptable schedules for general use in Britain. The discussions and recommendations in this symposium are therefore timely and should help to remove existing confusion.

The symposium consisted of five sessions, and the first dealt with "The Risks of Immunization," covering provocation poliomyelitis, pertussis vaccination, and, perhaps most important, faults in the sterilization of syringes and needles. Radical changes in the present practice of sterilizing syringes and needles are heralded, especially for mass inoculations with the ever-present risk of syringe hepatitis and other infections by multiple inoculations from a single syringe. Boiling is no guarantee of sterility and exposure to dry heat is the method of choice. The only safe procedure is a single sterile syringe and needle for each person.

Poliomyelitis and pertussis vaccination were under review in the second session, and the former gave rise to an interesting discussion in which Dr. Salk, Professor Lépine, and Professor Dick took part. There was general agreement that both vaccinations were effective, given good vaccines.

In the third session immunization against diphtheria and tetanus and the use of combined prophylactics (diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis) was discussed. There was some divergence of views on the latter, particularly in view of the risk of provocation poliomyelitis, although it was agreed that the combined prophylactics were efficient immunizing antigens.

The fourth and fifth sessions were devoted to discussion of immunization programmes and the adoption of recommended schedules. Two schedules were adopted, one (Schedule A) covering the age-period 5 weeks to 15 years, involving 11 visits by or to the doctor, and the other (Schedule B) covering the age-period 2 months to 15 years, involving 9 visits by or to the doctor. In both schedules the scheme included inoculation against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, smallpox, and tuberculosis. The advantages and disadvantages of each schedule were discussed and it was left to the doctor to decide whether to use "Schedule A" with a longer course of single prophylactics, or "Schedule B" with a shorter course including triple vaccine, but a slightly greater risk of post-inoculation poliomyelitis.

The main purpose of the symposium was attained and authoritative guidance is given which should be of value to doctors and school medical officers in planning future immunization procedures.

V. D. A.

OUTLINE OF ORTHOPÆDICS. By John Crawford Adams, M.D., F.R.C.S.(Eng.). Third Edition. (Pp. vii + 440; figs. 313. 35s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1960.

THIS book contains all a medical student, preparing for his final examinations, needs to know about orthopædics. It is not a synopsis, neither is it a traditional text book, but it is easy to read. Stress is laid, in various sections, on the most important part of orthopædics which a student requires in his general surgical training, viz., on the methods of clinical examination of joints and limbs. This feature alone should make the book a "must" for medical students.

The author stresses the importance of conservative methods in treatment and reminds the reader that most orthopædic operations are really "luxury" procedures. On the other hand, in those conditions where only surgery can be expected to cure he does not worry or confuse the undergraduate reader with details and only mentions the more important operative principals.

Like all publications of E. & S. Livingstone, the book is delightfully laid out with suitable line drawings, photographs, and X-ray reproduction which makes it very difficult for the reader not to grasp at once the essential features of the problems discussed. The reviewer will certainly continue to recommend this book, as he has done with the previous editions of it, to his students.

R. J. W. W.